

HAWAI'I UNDERSEA RESEARCH LABORATORY

**QUICK LOOK REPORT
DIVE: PV-704**

MISSION STATUS

Location: Cross Seamount

Latitude: 18° 43.832

Longitude: 158° 15.551

Mission Date: 11-27-2007

Duration: 8 hours

Maximum Depth: 421 m

Project Title: Gold coral growth validation study

Principal Investigator: Frank Parrish

Address:

Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center
2570 Dole Street
Honolulu Hawaii, 96822

Phone: 808-983-5391

Observer 1: Frank Parrish

Observer 2:

Address:

Address:

Same as above

Same

Pilot 1: Terry Kerby

Pilot 2: Steve Price

Scientific Data Acquired: Prepare an abstract outlining your objectives, techniques, findings, etc.

Objectives:

The objective was to revisit and re-measure gold coral (*Gerardia* sp.) colonies that were marked in 2000 and 2002. This work was conducted as part of a larger series of dives to validate the 6 cm/yr growth rate currently used to calculate the harvest quota in the precious coral fishery. All the colonies marked at Cross Smt were >30 cm in height. The sub occupants found markers left on the bottom (flower pot) and then using a laser scale projected on the colonies they estimated their size. Estimates were made by the observer and the pilots without the benefit of knowing what the prior estimates were. A portion of the dive is spent relocating and changing out thermographs. A flow meter and some sediment traps were also deployed in the coral bed.

Upon completion the sub transited to the summit of the seamount often referred to as Jurassic Park to attempt to feed some transmitters to cook sharks known to congregate in the area. Had it been successful some acoustic receivers would have been deployed. In the last hour of the dive

the sub search and found the lost HARP instrument which had failed to surface when its acoustic release had been tripped months earlier.

Observations, findings, etc:

All Seven trees and the thermographs were relocated and measured. The flow meters and the sediment traps were deployed. At Jurassic Park ~25 large sharks (>8') were encountered but none took the bait with the transmitter. The HARP was found and released from the bottom by shaking the unit gently so the weight fell away and the package floated to the surface where it was retrieved.

Species list:

No fauna counts other than the cook sharks were made on this dive.

MISSION EVALUATION:

Limitations, failures, or operational problems noted:

ROS camera would not zoom but the other camera did making the work possible.

Recommendations for corrective action or improvement:

Fix zoom on camera

In your opinion, did the mission essentially achieve its purpose? Compare actual work accomplished with the work that was expected to be accomplished.

Yes, dive far exceeded expectations.

List specimens or samples collected on the mission.

NA

DATA RELEASE

Data may be retained by the project leader for up to 2 years after the mission date with the following exception. NOAA may request to use photos for publication or publicity purposes at any time.

Fill in the appropriate statement below and sign this form.

I hereby release the data archived by HURL for public consumption following mission (project title)

held on _____(date) in the following way:

- a. CTD data by _____(date)
- b. video and images by _____(date)
- c. other _____(date)
- d. I will give my written consent to individuals wishing to use these data prior to the above dates depending on the nature of the request(s).

_____Principal Investigator